



STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council
P.O. Box 6415
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415



SAVE THE DATE:
May 28, 2015
Trees, Water and the Historic Elysian Park Arboretum- with Don Hodel

2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

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|----------|---|-----------------|
| May 28 | Trees, Water & the Historic Elysian Park Arboretum Guest Speaker Don Hodel | Los Angeles, CA |
| June 19 | Golf Tournament | Burbank, CA |
| July 23 | WTMS Summer Program | Pomona, CA |
| Sept. 24 | Topic TBD | Long Beach, CA |

Interested in hosting a program in your community? We are interested in hearing from you!
Contact heather@streettreseminar.com

MISSION STATEMENT

"To promote the advancement of urban forestry and provide a forum for tree care professionals to share their experiences, knowledge, and expertise for the benefit of the membership and the enhancement of Southern California's community forests."

VISION STATEMENT

"To enhance the health and beauty of Southern California cities by improving the quality of our community forests."

Remember to email Ann Hope at ann@mauget.com with your reservation



STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC. - Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

STS Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2015

VOLUME XXI ISSUE 2

Street Trees South of the Border w/ Jorge Ochoa

by Ann Hope, Secretary



Jorge Ochoa speaking about Street Trees South of the Border

This month's Street Tree Seminar meeting was held at the beautiful Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia with guest speaker Jorge Ochoa. Jorge is a full time instructor with the Long Beach City College.

Jorge took us back through time, showing us how far we have come in the care of our trees in the United States. The presentation took a look across the border where tree health care is nonexistent. We saw many trees poorly maintained, if at all. There were pictures of tree wells so small that barely a plant could exist. There are no pruning standards. Some of the trees in the presentation were just stumps with one little leader, just hanging on to life.

In the US we have adopted certain standards in which trees should be maintained, pruned and removed. In Mexico, Some trees were pruned to look like other trees, such as a ficus tree pruned to look like a pine tree. At least someone has some creativity! In most of the neighborhoods, they

had no trees or even room for trees to be planted.

Across the border, there is no governing of the trees or their maintenance. Many trees appeared to be the wrong tree in the wrong place. Tearing up sidewalks with no intention of being repaired. It was truly sad to see so much potential to have beautiful tree lined streets, but no money or resources to make it happen. Additionally, there are no future plans to correct the problem.

Many of the trees had the trunks painted white, to prevent sunburn, we assume. But that is only an assumption. They too are suffering from the drought conditions, without the resources to correct these problems. Interestingly enough, the one rule they have is not to remove any trees, due to a fine imposed by the government.

As Jorge pointed out, here we spend a lot of time and money to maintain not only the health of the trees, but their proper pruning and care. Sadly, this is not the case everywhere.



Lunchtime on the beautiful patio

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Notes from our March 2015 General Meeting

Our March 2015 meeting was held at the LA Arboretum in Arcadia.

Past Presidents in attendance were: John Conway, Rose Epperson, Al Epperson, Al Remyn and Fred Roth

Prizes were donated by: Christy Cuba, Rose Epperson, George Olekszak, Emina Darakjy, Kevin Holman, Antonio Gomez, Ann Hope

Raffle Winners: Antonio Gomez, Tim Crothers, Greg Young, Heather Crippen, Rich Records, Violet Lawrence, Emina Darakjy, Ross Montes, George Olekszak

Next Meeting: Please join us May 28th in Elysian Park for our May meeting w/Don Hodel. Cost \$20/ pre-reg members \$25/pre reg non-members Visit our website for more information or to register. www.streettreseminar.com

Tree Growth Never Slows– by Jeff Tollefson

Many foresters have long assumed that trees gradually lose their vigour as they mature, but a new analysis suggests that the larger a tree gets, the more kilos of carbon it puts on each year.

“The trees that are adding the most mass are the biggest ones, and that holds pretty much everywhere on Earth that we looked,” says Nathan Stephenson, an ecologist at the US Geological Survey in Three Rivers, California, and the first author of the study, which appears today in *Nature*. “Trees have the equivalent of an adolescent growth spurt, but it just keeps going.”

The scientific literature is chock-full of studies that focus on forests’ initial growth and their gradual move towards a plateau in the amount of carbon they store as they reach maturity. Researchers have also documented a reduction in growth at the level of individual leaves in older trees.

In their study, Stephenson and his colleagues analyzed reams of data on 673,046 trees from 403 species in monitored forest plots, in both tropical and temperate areas around the world. They found that the largest trees gained the most mass each year in 97% of the species, capitalizing on their additional leaves and adding ever more girth high in the sky.

Although they relied mostly on existing data, the team calculated growth rates at the level of the individual trees, whereas earlier studies had typically looked at the overall carbon stored in a plot.

Estimating absolute growth for any tree remains problematic, in part because researchers typically take measurements at a person’s height and have to extrapolate the growth rate higher up. But the researchers’ calculations consistently showed that larger trees added the most mass. In one old-growth forest plot in the western United States, for instance, trees larger than 100 centimetres in diameter comprised just 6% of trees, but accounted for 33% of the growth.



The findings build on a detailed case study published in 2010, which showed similar growth trends for two of the world’s tallest trees — the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus regnans*), both of which can grow well past 100 metres in height. In that study, researchers climbed, and took detailed measurements of, branches and limbs throughout the canopy to calculate overall tree growth. Stephen Sillett, a botanist at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, who led the 2010 study, says that the latest analysis confirms that his group’s basic findings apply to almost all trees.

Decline in efficiency

The results are consistent with the known reduction in growth at the leaf level as trees age. Although individual leaves may be less efficient, older trees have more of them. And in older forests, fewer large trees dominate growth trends until they are eventually brought down by a combination of fungi, fires, wind and gravity; the rate of carbon accumulation depends on how fast old forests turn over.

“It’s the geometric reality of tree growth: bigger trees have more leaves, and they have more surface across which wood is deposited,” Sillett says. “The idea that older forests are decadent — it’s really just a myth.”

The findings help to resolve some of these contradictions, says Maurizio Mencuccini, a forest ecologist at the University of Edinburgh, UK. The younger trees may grow faster on a relative scale, he says, meaning that they take less time to, say, double in size. “But on an absolute scale, the old trees keep growing far more.”

The study has broad implications for forest management, whether in maximizing the yield of timber harvests or providing old-growth habitat and increasing carbon stocks. More broadly, the research could help scientists to develop better models of how forests function and their role in regulating the climate.

STS Scholarship Essay– From Turf to Trees~ Amanda Duncan

With the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power paying homeowners to remove turf, many homeowners are taking advantage of this plan which gives them cash per square footage of turf removed. The crippling drought has everyone debating their landscape choices. While horticulturists love that more people are thinking about their private green spaces, it could lead to disastrous homeowner replacement choices of gravel and sparse plantings, ruining everyone’s street view. Two dollars a square foot is a big incentive for many homeowners and as more find out about these savings, it would be beneficial if they could be given the knowledge to invest some of that money back into a new solution for their landscape: trees. It is a crucial time to get the word out that trees can make ideal replacements in this new, drier world. Most mature trees are drought tolerant. Proper tree selection by homeowners at this time could be very beneficial down the road for their water usage.

Removal of turf can be a sad alternative to many, but it may be a real help to existing trees. Turf and trees have long collided when forced to share small residential spaces. Trees, when not given a sufficient ring of separation from turf, often receive improper irrigation, causing overwatering. There is also often damage and girdling issues caused by turf tools like string trimmers and mowers. If turf must be reduced or eliminated trees are great

substitutes. If the rains return there is the possibility of erosion issues with a lack of turf to hold the soil in place. The multitude of tree roots can help with holding the soil in place much better than the few succulents most homeowners have chosen to replace once-beloved lawns. Esthetically the lack of a lawn can be a big deterrent to the resale of a home; hopefully the addition of a more forest-like environment could soften this look. Landscape designers and homeowners need to look closely at this alternative.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power should be recommending tree planting as much as they are promoting the elimination of turf. Tree shade can reduce power usage during hot summer months when power usage is at it’s highest. Shade areas dry out slower and require less irrigation. Turf is a big provider of oxygen and cools the air just like trees and the wholesale recommendation to remove it without a complimentary alternative is destructive to our environment. The elimination of green space is a sad alternative to this drought, but if that is the way the public utilities are approaching the drought, then tree alternatives are important to emphasize.

*Amanda is our second of three 2015 scholarship awardees to be recognized. Stay tuned for the rest! Amanda comes to the green industry by way of 20 years in the television industry in the Midwest. She decided to move west to pursue a career in landscape design. She is currently attending Pierce College and working on her Landscape Design Associate Degree.



STORM RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SUMMIT

LOCATION: The California Endowment Center, 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 **DATE:** Monday, August 3, 2015

EVENT COST:
 Non-member price, \$133 (Early Bird); \$154 (Regular); \$186 (Walk-In).
 Member price, \$103, (Early Bird); \$123 (Regular); \$154 (Walk-In).
 Your discount code is: **wcisa2015**. **CEUs:** See registration page for details.

For more information or to register: <http://srcs-socal.eventbrite.com>

STORM PREPAREDNESS THROUGH URBAN FORESTRY

Urban Forestry Incident Command Engagement Model